

RESOLUTION 20526

RESOLUTION APPROVING AND DIRECTING STAFF TO SUBMIT AN I-JOBS GRANT APPLICATION TO THE IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY.


WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the above referred to grant application and finds that the same should be submitted.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED by the City Council, City of Marion, Iowa, that the City Manager or designee is hereby authorized and directed to submit said grant application

Passed and approved this 16th day of July, 2009.


Paul E. Rehn, Mayor

ATTEST:


Wesley A. Nelson, City Clerk

Selection Committee
I-Jobs Program
State of Iowa

July 29, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Ofentimes, initiating and completing "Phase One" is the most difficult step in any major project. The City of Marion intends to construct a bridge over Indian Creek as "Phase One" of the Tower Terrace Road project. This is a major initiative. Tower Terrace Road is a regional road project that has been planned for decades to provide an east-west connection between I-380 and Highway 13. The communities of Marion, Robbins, Hiawatha and Cedar Rapids will all be directly and positively impacted by the completion of Tower Terrace Road. Completing Phase One, the Tower Terrace Road Bridge, will spur the project forward to create a positive economic development environment for the entire metro area.

The City of Marion has submitted an I-Jobs application to help pay for the bridge project. The premise of the I-Job program is to target those projects that will most likely to create jobs and to spur additional projects. Construction of the Tower Terrace Road Bridge in Marion will eliminate one of the biggest challenges to completing this regional project. The I-Job program was created for projects such as this.

Immediate benefits include opening 500+ acres of new commercial residential development with *many more* acres opened as Tower Terrace Road is built. It is projected that 650 new jobs will be created in the short-term with *many more* created as development accelerates. New businesses and jobs equates with a growing population, expanding schools, new homes and additional support businesses and an expanding tax base.

The mission of the Marion Economic Development Company is to "encourage and facilitate the expansion and retention of manufacturing and commercial business in Marion. The end objective of the I-Jobs program is to spur long-term economic development by funding those programs that will establish the needed synergy to create additional growth opportunities.

Marion Economic Development Company (MEDCO) is proud to support the City of Marion's I-Jobs application to build the Tower Terrace Road Bridge. This project was made-to-order for I-Jobs and is too good to be ignored.

Thank you for favorably considering Marion's I-Job's application

Sincerely yours,



George Lake
President, MEDCO



Striving for Educational Excellence

Office of the Superintendent

Kathleen Mulholland, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Rick Ironside, Ed.D.
Associate
Superintendent

David Nicholson
Business Administrator
Board Secretary
Board Treasurer

Karla Christian
Executive Director of
Human Resources

Dirk Halupnik
Executive Director of
Instructional Services

Julie Jensen
Executive Director of
Student Services

Robert M. Crawford
President
Board of Directors

District Schools

High School, 9-12
Jeff Gustason, Ph.D.
Principal

Excelsior, 6-8
John Christian
Principal

Oak Ridge, 6-8
Erica Rausch
Principal

Bowman Woods, K-5
John Zimmerman
Principal

Echo Hill, K-5
Dan Ludwig
Principal

Indian Creek, K-5
Tina Monroe
Principal

Linn Grove, PreK-5
Shannon Bisgard
Principal

Novak, K-5
Joe North
Principal

Westfield, K-5
Ed Rogers
Principal

Wilkins, K-5
Marilee McConnell
Principal

August 3, 2009

Lon Pluckhahn, City Manager
City of Marion
Marion, Iowa 52302

Dear Lon:

Please accept this letter of support for the City's I-Jobs project which involves the northern most east-west connection in the city, Tower Terrace Road. The project includes 450 acres that will be opened up for new development. Most importantly the Tower Terrace Corridor will create over 650 jobs because of the property which will be developed commercially. For all of the property owners within the City, this diversifies the property tax base, a very critical need for our school district in giving property tax levy relief. It is anticipated that build-out will produce \$150 million in new property value. Our district will have much improved access to developing areas because of the new Tower Terrace Corridor and to other City services which include police and fire protection. Because the City's growth is primarily to the north and covers about two thirds of the Linn-Mar School District, access to services is essential for our schools as well as the homes which populate our neighborhood schools.

It is very important to all of the community that you give serious consideration and approval to the City of Marion's I-Jobs project which is a strongly documented need for Marion. As we collaborate with the City to bring businesses to the area to support the economy and the schools, we believe that this project is a winner for all.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Mulholland, Ed.D.
Superintendent

August 3, 2009

Iowa Finance Authority

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Marion Chamber of Commerce, I would like to voice our support for the construction of Tower Terrace Road.

Marion is the 7th fastest growing city in Iowa. The vast majority of our residential growth is north of 7th Avenue. Currently, Marion does not have a road that is a direct East/ West connection between I-380 and Highway 13.

Beyond the safety and traffic relief that this road will provide to our community, it will also provide several economy boosting opportunities for Marion. With Tower Terrace Road will come numerous commercial opportunities that will serve our rapidly growing population. It will strongly increase the property values in that area right out of the gate. With additional commercial growth comes the creation of new jobs. This project will create an estimated 650 jobs starting at construction and continuing with new commercial developments that will need to hire employees.

Because this road will provide an additional east/west connection for Marion, it will bring additional support, mainly new customers to our existing businesses who have previously bi-passed Marion by using other rural roads.

Tower Terrace Road will be an economic engine for a rapidly growing community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jill Ackerman
President